(c) what steps have been taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Exports to USSR take place in terms of the Trade Protocol signed every year. According to information available with the Tabacco Board, the quantities of tobacco provided for export in the Trade Protocol for 1991 have already been exported. As regards 1992, the Annual Trade Protocol is yet to be finalised.

भारत की निर्यात और आयात नीति

*378. श्री ईश दत्त यादव: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री 26 नवम्बर, 1991 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 365 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत की निर्यात और आयात नीति भुगतान-संतुलन की समस्या का सामना करने में असफल रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो निर्यात और आयात नीति में विगत पांच वर्षों में कितनी बार बदलाव किये गये हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम्): (क) और (ख) विगत 10 वर्षों में सरकार ने निर्यात बढ़ाने और गैर-जरूरी आयात को कम करने के उद्देश्य से निर्यात-आयात नीति तैयार की। एक अर्थक्षम भुगतान सन्तुलन को सुनिश्चित करने के उद्देश्य से एक्सिम नीति और हमारी परोक्ष-लाभ नीति जिसमें कामगारों के लाभ, पर्यटन और ब्याज भुगतान शामिल हैं, उससे यह अपेक्षा थी कि उससे हमारे भुगतान-सन्तुलन की स्थिति नियंत्रण योग्य हो जाएगी। किन्तु, हम उसमें अधिक सफल नहीं रहे हैं क्योंकि हमारा विदेशी ऋण अब लगभग 70 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर बकाया रहता है। विगत 10 वर्षों (1980-81 से 1989-90) में व्यापार घाटा 58 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर का रहा है। वर्ष 1990-91 में व्यापार घाटा 5.9 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर का रहा।

नई सरकार ने सत्ता में आने के तुरन्त बाद जुलाई तथा अगस्त, 1991 में आयात-निर्यात नीति में भारी संशोधन किए। इसके परिणामस्वरूप, व्यापार घाटे में काफी गिरावट आई है। अप्रैल—सितम्बर, 1990 की अवधि में 2.4 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर मूल्य का व्यापार घाटा हुआ था जो अप्रैल—सितम्बर, 1991 की अवधि में घटकर 1.0 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर मूल्य का रह गया। यद्यपि विस्तृत आयात-निर्यात नीति की घोषणा की गई है फिर भी, व्यापार-वातावरण को और अधिक प्रेरणादायक बनाने और भुगतान-सन्तुलन की स्थिति को और अधिक अर्थक्षम बनाने के वास्ते आयात कम करने के लिए समय-समय पर छोटे-छोटे परिवर्तन किए जाते हैं।

Setting up of a High Court bench in Western U.P.

*379. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has discussed the matter for establishment of a High Court bench in Western Uttar Pradesh with the present state Government;

(b) if so, what has been the reaction of Government of Uttar Pradesh thereto; and

(c) by when the matter would be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) Recommendations of the Jaswant Singh Commission for setting up of Benches of Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh were, referred to the Government of Uttar Pradesh in October, 1986 for their views and comments, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court.

(b) No specific, complete proposal has so far been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The matter can be finalised by the Central Government only if a specific and complete proposal is received from the State Government.

Setting up Power Plant in Tamil Nadu by Australia

*380. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of

POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Australia is keen to set up a power plant in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Mr. Ralph Evans, Managing Director, Austrade and Australian Government organisation has moved the centre in this regard;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(d) by when the Central Government propose to give clearance to Austrade application?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) Australia has of late evinced interest in expanding the scope of Indo-Australian Cooperation in the power sector. However, the Government has not received any proposal from Australia for the setting up of a power plant in Tamil Nadu.

Units engaged in Diamond Processing Industry

2617. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of diamond processing units at present in the country and the number of persons employed therein;

(b) what is the amount of capital invested in this industry;

(c) quantum of exports of gems and jewellery during the last three years, year-wise, and foreign exchange earned during the same period; and

(d) steps being taken to boost exports in view of the current economic situation of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The diamond industry is scattered and extends to rural areas with a substantial segment in the unorganised sector. No census has been conducted of the extent of employment provided by this industry. The capital investment varies from unit to unit depending on the technology and the extent of mechanisation. No consolidated figures of the total capital employed in the industry are available.

(c) The foreign exchange earned from export of gems and jewellery during the last three years has been as follows:—

Year	Rs. Crores
1988-89	4565.28
1989-90	5479.37
1990-91	5336.83

Source: Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

(d) Government has taken a series of measures to enchance exports which, inter alia, include replenishment facility for diamond exporters to obtain rough diamonds, facility for opening of dollar account, repeal of the Gold Control Act and direct access to gold import for jewellery exporters.

Upgradation of Joint Chief Controller of Exim

2618. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the last Pay Commission recommednded upgradation of existing posts of Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports at Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay to that of Directors in order to give more avenues of promotion to Central Trade Service; and

(b) whether these recommendations were considered and approved by Ministry of Finance and a notification to this effect was issued and placed on the Table of the Parliament; and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Keeping in view the cadre structure of the CTS and the work load of the regional offices at Bom-